News release

Storm hits southern Britain

27 October 2002

Storm warnings issued late last week came true today as winds in excess of 80 m.p.h. hit parts of England and Wales. The Atlantic storm crossed Ireland overnight, then the Isle of Man and northern England this morning, en route to the North Sea this afternoon.

A wind of 96 m.p.h. was recorded earlier today at Mumbles near Swansea and many areas saw gusts of 60 to 80 m.p.h.

In terms of wind speed, it was the biggest storm since late October 2000 when the Isle of Wight recorded 100 m.p.h. winds and 90 m.p.h. winds affected coastal parts of south-west England and south Wales.

Ewen McCallum, the Met Office's Forecasting Director, said: 'This was a powerful autumn storm which was predicted many days in advance. Although there will be more rain at times this week, it won't be anywhere near as windy.'

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